

# The Dead Horse DISPATCH

June 2011

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

## Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival



Volunteer Hall Stoddard helps a youngster catch a fish at the "Osprey Drop"



Volunteer Barbie Hart (Festival Coordinator or lovingly known by DHRSP as The Big Tweet), Mr. Frog, Kami Ricklefs (Admin. Assistant), and Paul Green (Woodsy Owl), strike a pose.



Volunteer Bob Akey (designer of the "Osprey Drop") lends a hand

### Celebrating 11 years!

The 2011 Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival was another huge success! This was our largest festival to date, and we could not have done it without the help of the wonderful Dead Horse Ranch State Park volunteers. We had over 400 registrants this year, the most ever, and at least 75 kids came for the Family Nature Fair activities plus we had a troop of scouts attending the beginning birding. Although the Fair was the same weekend as our festival, many families and children came to the Nature Fair with smiling faces and excitement at all of the games and crafts. We heard many compliments and thanks from participants to everyone who helped out with the festival. They thoroughly enjoyed the festival and their time here in the Verde Valley.

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Nathan and Ranger Eric Buzonas join Woodsy The Owl and Mrs. Bee in the festivities.



Volunteer Patricia Enockson (left) as Miss. Spider, join Mr. Frog and Woodsy The Owl



Oh what a web he weaves! Rangers Eric and Tony (plus Volunteer Chris Jensen) are setting up the spider web display in the kids activity tent for the birding festival.



submitted by Ranger Margie Sanchez



**VVB&NFestival cont. from page 1**

We would also like to give many thanks to those who helped with the set-up and tear down of the festival. Hauling sand bags and pitching tents while still attending their duties on the park made for busy days. We had more help than in years past, so tear-down went much more smoothly and quickly. A special

thanks to Gary and Sharon Munson who took on arranging for the school programs, distributing advertising for the Nature Fair, and garnishing donations. Again, a huge thanks to all of the volunteers, and we hope to see you again next year for our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Birding & Nature Festival along with a celebration of Arizona's Centennial.



*Pictures:*

*1. Miss. Spider & Mrs. Bee!*

*2. "Whooo" knows what kind of bird this is?*

*3. A youngster tries his hand at catching flies at the "Spider Drop" game.*

*4. Volunteers Harold Flavell & Jim Harris help the kids build oriole feeders and birdhouses. All of the lumber was generously donated by our local Home Depot.*



*5. Volunteer Penny Andress looks on as Volunteer Gary Munson assists a young girl with this year's newest craft: Rainsticks! The rainsticks were made from scrap irrigation tubing, rice & beans!!*

VVB&NF story submitted by Barbie Hart

Pictures submitted by Mary Ontiveros (USFS & committee member) and Susie Beach (Festival Co-coordinator)

Captions submitted by Eric Buzonas



*6. Like a Ford assembly plant, Volunteers Jim Harris and Bill Fritz joined forces again this year to build birdhouse after birdhouse.*

*7. Volunteer Betty Wolters helps a young girl add some finishing touches to her rain stick. The rain sticks were a big hit this year.*

*8. Volunteer Chris Jensen endured the sun again at the Habitat Toss Game. This game is especially fun for the younger children, and teaches them the basics of what a "habitat" is.*



*9. "Head Quacker" Volunteer Hall Stoddard works the Duck Pond! Children must successfully answer a question about birds, before choosing a duck. The number on the bottom of the duck reveals their prize.*





## Nan's Notes:

*Report from Editor Nan on the road again!*

## Happy Trails to You!

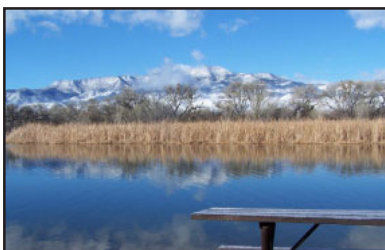


Just before we left in mid-April, Norm and I took a ride with Trail Horse Adventures, a concession operating in DHRSP. One of the wranglers, second from left, seems to express it pretty well. What a grand day to be on a horse, riding the trail through the cottonwoods and basking in the warm sun. Can it get any better? That's my horse's ear in the lower corners of both photos. Taking photos from a horse's back is challenging!

Part of the fun of the ride is taking the horses across the river and back, splashing through the creek just like in the movies. During the hour-long ride, trail riders explore the cottonwoods and the desert, skirting the old cemetery in the park, and returning to the corrals via the lower part of Lime Kiln Trail. All volunteers are welcome to take a ride, so they can share the experience firsthand with visitors.

## Reflections!

*In March, when the sun lit up the snow-covered Mingus Mountain ... magic happened. Puffy clouds of humidity formed. Then a wondrous reflection appeared in the stillness of the lagoon.*



**Here is a story, Dad, for the newsletter**

Do you remember those cute, little, adventurous girls? The hunting fanatic, the laughy woman? They are coming back, but not the same. The girls aren't so little anymore and they are a little more different. The hunting fanatic is still the same (kind of). The laughy woman is more the laughy, crazy, groovy, dancy, kind of gal. They have been through some changes and actually enjoyed it there in St. Johns. It has been a fantastic experience for them all. In fact none of them want to leave. They have made tons of friends and are way more outgoing then they used to be. They are all going to miss it there. But they are on their way back down to Cottonwood to see all the new guys and the old ones. *submitted by Megan Elise Christianson*



## Volunteer News Coming

\* Welcome! Gary & Arleen Rowland, Red Tail Loop

## Going

\* No one!

## Dates to Remember in June

6/6 - Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 am, VRG studio  
6/20 - Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 am, VRG studio

## June MileStones

- 3-Judi & Keith Mangels (1961)
- 3-Les Bovee
- 5-Bob & Elsie Ross
- 6-Anne Foster
- 6-Jette Monahan
- 8-Gary Munson
- 12-Su Cain
- 12-Russ & Joyce Jones (1999)
- 13-Jim & Jette Monahan (1970)
- 13-Linda & Randall Hauk (1993)
- 15-Bob & Toni Mann (1963)
- 18-Rob Burson
- 18-Su & Bill Cain
- 21-Pam Sanor
- 22-Dave & Carol Nank (1963)
- 23-Bill Cain
- 23-Nan Hephner
- 24-Anita Coates-Ohlhaber
- 26-Cyril Soukup
- 26-Gordon & Betty Lawrick (1965)
- 27-Janet Sisson
- 30-Tom & Pam Sanor (1988)
- 30-Harold Flavell



*We have a tree donated by Verde River Growers every year in honor of Earthday. It was planted by Manager George Christianson above and Ranger Max Castillo below.*



*The fish are still biting at DHRSP. Nora Noble of Sedona reeled in this large mouth bass shortly before noon on Monday, May 16th. Noble was using a worm on an 8-pound test line. For information on AZ State Parks, visit [www.azstateparks.gov](http://www.azstateparks.gov).*

*submitted by Randy Victory, PR II*